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Title: Need to increase the retirement age of the employees of ports and dock labour boards from 58 to 60 years.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY (BERHAMPORE, WEST BENGAL): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Ministry of Shipping and Transport that the age of retirement of the employees of all major ports and dock labour boards be raised from 58 to 60 years.

You are well aware that the maritime trade has been increasing by leaps and bounds and those employees play the great role of the maritime trade. It is regrettable to note that when the retirement age in the educational institutions has been raised from 60 to 65 years and the retirement age of almost all the Central Government and PSU employees is fixed at 60 years, these poor employees who have been working sincerely are not getting this benefit. Not only that, when the recruitment in shipping industry has virtually come to a standstill, when the handling of cargo has been increasing day by day and being handled with the depleted workforce, at that time, the employees of the dock board should not be deprived of having their earnings.

It has also been understood that the retirement age in respect of the Central Government employees, including the employees of the Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways and the employees working under some of the undertakings attached to the administrative Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways, and most of the State Government employees is 60 years, I think, this is a sheer discrimination against those employees of the major ports and dock board.

MR. SPEAKER: You have made your point very well.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY : Sir, I would urge upon the Government to consider the plight of those employees sincerely and take effective measures.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Yerrannaidu, yesterday an identical matter was raised for quite some time by the hon. Member Dr. Babu Rao.[r29] [r30]The hon. Minister did not happen to be present. Today, he is accidentally present and because of that you want to raise the same matter again. Then every day it will happen.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Can every time, everybody interrupt the Chair?

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU : The issue is very alarming in Andhra Pradesh.

MR. SPEAKER: The only alarming issue is yours! Since the hon. Minister is willing to reply; but I hope in future such requests will not be made and the hon. Minister should also not respond.

*m02

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): Sir, I will respond only with your permission.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, I am giving the permission.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I will get the information and examine it properly, and ask the Government of Andhra Pradesh to take appropriate action.